NPT/CONF.2020/PC.I/WP.32

Preparatory Committee for the 2020 Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons

10 May 2017

Original: English and Chinese

First session
Vienna, 2-12 May 2017

Security assurances against the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons

Working paper submitted by China

1. In order to free the world from the threat of nuclear weapons and the risk of nuclear war, all nuclear weapons should be subjected to complete prohibition and thorough destruction. Pending the realization of this goal, all nuclear-weapon States should undertake unequivocally not to be the first to use nuclear weapons at any time or under any circumstance, and undertake unconditionally not to use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against non-nuclear-weapon States or nuclear-weapon-free zones.

2. Legally binding security assurances by nuclear-weapon States to non-nuclear-weapon States are conducive to strengthening the international nuclear non-proliferation regime. A universal, unconditional and legally binding international legal instrument on this issue should be concluded as soon as possible.

3. All nuclear-weapon States should diminish the role played by nuclear weapons in their national security policies, abandon the nuclear deterrence policy based on first use of nuclear weapons and refrain from listing any country as target of nuclear strikes or targeting the nuclear weapons under their control at any country.

4. Nuclear-weapon States should support the efforts of non-nuclear-weapon States to establish nuclear-weapon-free-zones and undertake corresponding obligations in a legally binding manner.

5. The Conference on Disarmament in Geneva should start substantive work on concluding an international legally binding instrument on security assurances to non-nuclear-weapon States at an early date.

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Peaceful uses of nuclear energy

Working paper submitted by China

1. The peaceful use of nuclear energy is an inalienable right of the States parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. Measures to enhance the peaceful uses of nuclear energy will be conducive to the full attainment of the objectives of the Treaty and to the enhancement of the confidence of international community to participate in the nuclear disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation process.

2. The peaceful uses of nuclear energy and nuclear non-proliferation are complementary. Both are important and should be treated on equal footing. Efforts to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons should not undermine the legitimate rights of parties, particularly developing countries, to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

3. To encourage the peaceful uses of nuclear energy and international cooperation is one of the important goals of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and the statute of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Developed countries and the Agency should strengthen the assistance to developing countries in the peaceful uses of nuclear energy based on their actual needs.

4. The International Atomic Energy Agency should continue to play a central role in promoting the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. The Agency should ensure balance between nuclear safeguards and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy in accordance with its statute. Member States should actively support the Agency's technical cooperation activities to ensure adequate and predictable resources for technical cooperation.

5. Nuclear energy is important to energy security and climate change. China is steadily promoting the construction of nuclear power in an orderly manner and will continue to make contributions to the development of nuclear energy in the world. China has always attached great importance to nuclear safety and will further improve the nuclear safety regulatory system. China will ensure the safe and reliable operation of nuclear facilities through effective safety supervision and scientific management, in order to enhance public confidence in the development of nuclear energy. Utilizing the National Research and Development Centre for

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Nuclear and Radiation Safety and Security Monitoring Technologies, we will help others enhance their capacity in security monitoring and contribute our share to enhancing nuclear power safety and security worldwide.

6. Strengthening the international nuclear security system is a basic prerequisite for the healthy development of nuclear energy. China attaches great importance to nuclear security and resolutely opposes nuclear terrorism. The international community should adhere to the rational, coordinated and progressive nuclear security concept, step up political input, pool international consensus, stick to the direction of addressing both symptoms and root causes and advance global security governance. We should step up national responsibility, plan and implement nuclear security strategy and tighten up a line of defence that is sustainable. We should also step up international cooperation, forge a community of shared future on nuclear security and enhance the momentum of coordination for common progress. All parties should also step up the culture of nuclear security and create an atmosphere of joint efforts and shared benefits.

7. China will build a network for capacity-building on nuclear security, use existing platforms, including the Centre of Excellence on Nuclear Security and the China Customs Radiation Detection Training Centre, to carry out the training of nuclear security professionals, exercises and exchanges regarding nuclear security technologies and other activities. China welcomes the participation of Asia-Pacific countries, countries along the Belt and Road route and other developing countries in relevant projects, and will stay in close cooperation with IAEA.